

Features of each period in Orchestral Music – An Overview

Period	Orch makeup	Instr to note	Special effects	Melodic/Harmonic	Favourite Forms
Baroque	<p>Strings Ww – mainly double reeds (ob & bassoon) & flute Some trumpet Sometimes timps Average orch of 20</p> <p>Harpsichord - continuo</p>	<p>Trumpets & timp in ceremonial styles.</p> <p>Strings carry bulk of musical material.</p> <p>Harpsichord (sometimes organ)– main continuo instr. (cello or bassoon provide bass with this)</p>	<p>Trumpet parts tend to be fairly high in pitch.</p> <p>Spread chords and embellishments in harpsichord</p>	<p>Contrasting sections important: So <i>f</i> then <i>p</i> Strings then ww Orch then soloists</p> <p>Often quite contrapuntal in texture. Sequences. Trills & other ornaments.</p>	<p>Concerto Concerto Grosso Suite Overture</p>
Classical	<p>As above Add clarinet Horn now permanent member Slightly larger 25-30</p> <p>Continuo is phased out</p>	<p>Clarinet invented Piano invented – and often used as solo instrument Horn important – usually in pairs.</p>	<p>Hand-horn technique means horns can play simple melodies</p> <p>Pedals in horns, tpts and bassoons v frequent.</p>	<p>Simple textures, often more homophonic</p> <p>Scalic passages, some sequences, trills, <i>fp</i>, accents Alberti bass - (ostinato idea based on arpeggio) is v popular for accomp</p>	<p>Symphony Concerto Suite Overture</p> <p><i>Minuet & Trio</i> (found in symph & suites) v. pop</p>

<p>Romantic</p>	<p>Early Romantic starts as above and grows in size throughout period to 100. Add trombones and later tuba. More perc Woodwind are double (2 of each), later even triple.</p>	<p>Piano heard more in orch itself. Trombones used in groups of 2 or 3. Horns now in 4s. Harp placed in orch Piccolo intro. More perc – but mainly untuned – side drum, tamb, triangle, timps, bass drum, glock, cymbals</p>	<p>Mutes for brass invented in later half of Rom. Bass clarinet and other sizes of ww introduced late Rom</p>	<p>Bolder, fuller textures, more orch weight, more choice of instr so more colourful. Much wider range of dynamics. Richer harmony – later Rom sees some extended chords. Use of full brass section. Pedals widely used</p>	<p>Symphony Symphonic Poem Concerto Ballet Overture</p> <p><i>Scherzo</i> (a more boisterous dance) takes the place of the <i>minuet & trio</i>.</p>
<p>C20th</p>	<p>Any size of orch any combination. Smaller orchs are often used as well as v large ones.</p>	<p>Sax & all other ww instr now <u>sometimes</u> in orch Any perc – tuned & untuned. Electronics sometimes used.</p>	<p>Special playing techniques – eg. Flutter-tongue, multi-phonics Unusual comb of instr – eg. Flute & horn duet</p>	<p>Extended chords Disjunct (jumpy) melodies. Often lots of dissonance in the harmony. Rythmically complex sometimes.</p>	<p>Symphony Symphonic Poem Concerto Ballet Overture Jazz / Show style Film Music</p> <p>Now lots of very different styles emerge & also ‘crossover’ styles.</p>